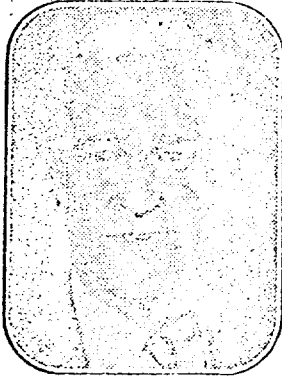


EXPOSE THE CIA?

Several attacks on the Central Intelligence Agency (Richard Helms, director) began Wednesday in the Senate.

Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) urged that CIA funds be reported in one line of the federal budget, instead of being masked as for decades past in other budget items.



Richard Helms

Sen. John Sherman Cooper (R-Ky.) introduced a bill to force the CIA to furnish Congress regularly with intelligence information hitherto given only to the government's Executive branch.

The Cooper proposal, it seems almost needless to say, got friendly comments from Democratic Sens. J. W. Fulbright (Ark.), Mike Mansfield (Mont.), and Stuart Symington (Mo.).

Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.) promised to introduce bills to forbid the CIA to sneak money to Thailand for Thai troops fighting in Laos.

Some things which these and other CIA-baiters seem not to have learned in all the years of the agency's existence:

The CIA is a big organization engaged in the difficult, dangerous, sometimes distasteful but utterly necessary work of espionage around the world. It has to be as secret in its operations as is humanly possible if it is to be effective. And if the CIA cannot go on being at least as effective in the future as it has been in the past, then God help the U.S.A.

STATINTL

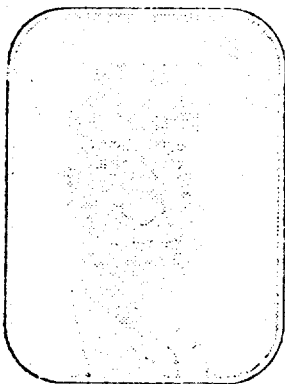
BEST COPY
Available

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

16 APR 1971

CIA--WE'VE GOT TO HAVE IT

At a luncheon meeting in Washington Wednesday of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard Helms delivered a speech of the first importance to the American people.



Richard Helms

The CIA, Mr. Helms observed, is often called an invisible government, spreading slimy tentacles around the country and plotting the eventual enslavement of the American people.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Actually, the CIA is a giant spy agency devoted to gathering information on the activities of all other nations' governments—with special and relentless attention to the enemy regimes in Moscow, Peking and Havana.

It has fascinating pipelines into all of these governments. One of the CIA's star performers, for example, was Col. Oleg Penkovskiy, outwardly a high Soviet military intelligence officer who funneled information to our side until the Kremlin found him out and killed him in 1963.

We simply have got to have the CIA, just as the British Empire in its heyday had to have the world-famous British intelligence service. And to keep our so-called Department of Dirty Tricks efficient and effective, we must let it do most of its good works in secret.

As Mr. Helms said in closing, Uncle Sam is a big boy now, and he lives in "a fearsome world," and the CIA is vital to his survival and continued safety.

Speaking of enemy nations, President Richard M. Nixon on Wednesday loosened restrictions on—

U.S. TRADE WITH RED CHINA

—saying U.S. firms henceforth will be permitted to export non-strategic items to the slave state presided over by Ho Tse-tung and Chou En-lai.

We hope the President knows what he is doing, and we expect to discuss this matter in detail in Sunday's editorials. But it is even more to be hoped that extreme care will be taken in determining what are non-strategic items.

Specifically, let us hope every precaution will be taken against exporting to Red China goods which can be transshipped to Red North Vietnam to beef up Hanoi's war against South Vietnam and our fighting men there.

It is often said that in modern warfare almost anything can become strategic. In trading with this sworn enemy of ours, let's not forget that danger for a moment.

STATINTL